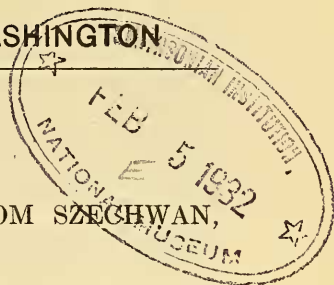


PROCEEDINGS
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FOUR NEW FORMS OF BIRDS FROM SZECHWAN,
CHINA.

BY J. H. RILEY.¹



Recently the Rev. Dr. David C. Graham forwarded to the U. S. National Museum a small lot of birds from Mount Omei, Szechwan. While the collection is small, it contains a number of interesting and rare forms from this part of China. Three timaline forms and a pigeon are deemed worthy of description. The latter had previously been sent from near Tatsienlu and Sungpan, and more recently Dr. J. F. Rock has sent it from south of Tatsienlu. As this series proves somewhat different from more northern birds it is given a name. The four forms may be described as follows:

Columba rupestris austrina, subsp. nov.

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 314,006, Chengtze, 14,500-15,900 feet, Szechwan, China, May, 1929. Collected by Joseph F. Rock (original number 1235).

Similar to *Columba rupestris rupestris* of north China, but averaging darker above, especially the upper tail-coverts. Wing, 237; tail, 129; culmen from cere, 11 mm.

Remarks.—The U. S. National Museum has three males of this form from the type locality; one adult male, one immature male and three adult females from Tatsienlu; one male from Nachuka, and one male from Sungpan. Of *Columba rupestris rupestris*, the Museum possesses three males and one female from Inner Mongolia, one male from extreme north-east Kansu, and one female from the Eastern Tombs, Chihli. All the southern specimens average darker on the upper tail-coverts. The single male from Sungpan is somewhat intermediate; the upper tail-coverts are slightly lighter than those of the more southern birds, but darker than in the northern race; I would, however, place it with the southern race as it seems nearer to it.

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***Yuhina nigrimentum quarta*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 307,776, Tseo-jia-keo, 3,000–4,000 feet, Szechwan, China, March 31, 1926. Collected by David C. Graham.

Similar to *Yuhina nigrimentum intermedia*, but paler, especially on the breast and belly; the bill longer. Wing, 61.5; tail, 45.5; culmen, 12 mm.

Remarks.—Graham has sent from time to time seven specimens of this form from Tseo (or Huang)-jia-keo, which is south of Suifu, near the Yunnan border. These were at first identified as *Yuhina nigrimentum intermedia*, but last spring three specimens of the latter were forwarded by Doctor Rock from northwest Yunnan, which are considerably darker on the breast and belly. Dr. Graham has also sent a single specimen of the new form from Mount Omei, 6,500 feet. In Fokien a still paler form occurs, *Yuhina nigrimentum pallida*.

The culmen in the three Yunnan specimens measures: 11–11.5 (11.2) mm. In the eight Szechwan birds: 11.5–12.5 (12.1) mm. The sexing in both series was done by native collectors and is unreliable.

***Yuhina gularis omeiensis*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 317,428, Mount Omei, 4,000 feet, Szechwan, China. Collected by David C. Graham.

Similar to *Yuhina gularis griseotincta*, but crest clove brown instead of sepia, the upperparts, throat, and underparts much lighter. Wing, 62; tail, 60; culmen, 15 mm.

Remarks.—The U. S. National Museum possesses two specimens of *Yuhina gularis griseotincta*, one from near Tengyueh, which is near the type locality of the race, and the other from the Luddü Mountains, much further north, between the Mekong and the Yangtze. The Tengyueh specimen was taken in March and the Luddü bird in August. The Tengyueh example is darker and richer in color, especially on the throat and chest; the throat and chest in the Luddü bird being especially pale. The latter is molting, but the new crest feathers which are coming in are sepia as in the Tengyueh bird. Dr. Graham sent three males taken on Mount Omei, which are quite uniform and differ quite appreciably from the Yunnan birds. *Yuhina gularis yangpiensis* I have never seen, but Rothchild (Novit. Zool., vol. 33, 1926, p. 276) says it is darker on the back and more strongly washed below with rufous than *Y. g. gularis*, while *Y. g. omeiensis* is even lighter than *Y. g. griseotincta*.

***Garrulax albogularis laetus*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 317,407, Mount Omei, 3,000 feet, Szechwan, China. Collected by David C. Graham.

Similar to *Garrulax albogularis eous*, but darker above and below, especially on the forehead; lighter than *Garrulax albogularis albogularis* above, more of a light brownish olive than saccardo umber, the tail with

a more grayish cast. Wing, 133; tail, 136; culmen, 22.5; tarsus, 41; middle toe, 24 mm.

Remarks.—When *Garrulax albogularis eous* was named earlier in this volume, p. 79, four rather poor specimens were available from Szechwan, and these seemed so close to *Garrulax albogularis albogularis* that it was deemed unwise to name it without better material. Dr. Graham has recently sent in nine specimens in good fresh fall plumage, all taken on Mount Omei, 3,000 to 6,000 feet, during November. These prove to be darker than the Yunnan race, but lighter than *albogularis* from Nepal. The tail in *laetus* and *eous* has a grayish cast apparently not present in *albogularis*, but this may be seasonal as the only Nepal specimen available is undated.